

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINGST 33625 081711Z
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FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6153

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C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 33625

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (YOUNG, ANDREW)

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S TRIP TO THE CARIBBEAN

REFERENCE: STATE 155134

1. PRIME MINISTER MANLEY WILL BE ON LEAVE AND OUTSIDE OF JAMAICA DURING THE SECOND, THIRD AND POSSIBLY FOURTH WEEKS OF AUGUST, BUT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 7. FONMIN PATTERSON PROBABLY WILL BE ON ISLAND EITHER AT THAT TIME, I.E. JUST BEFORE OR AFTER AUGUST 7, AND POSSIBLY DURING AUGUST 17-18 TIME-FRAME PROPOSED IN REFTTEL.

2. OWING TO SCHEDULING PROBLEMS POSED BY FOREGOING, WE ARE RELUCTANT TO SPELL OUT IN DETAIL A PROPOSED PROGRAM. HOWEVER, ANY PROGRAM HERE SHOULD INCLUDE SEVERAL HOURS OF MEETINGS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AND HIS KEY ADVISERS AND SEVERAL HOURS OF MEEZINGS WITH FONMIN PATTERSON SEPARATELY FROM THE PRIME MINISTER. ADDITIONALLY, GIVEN THE RUCKUS CREATED OVER THE INABILITY OF THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION, EDDIE SEAGA, TO MAKE A COURTESY CALL ON MRS. CARTER, IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO ARRANGE A BRIEF COURTESY MEETING BETWEEN AMBASSADOR YOUNG AND SEAGA -- ASSUMING GOJ HAS NO OBJECTIONS.

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2. IF AMBASSADOR YOUNG IS AGREEABLE, WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO SEE HIM (AND WE ASSUME GOJ WOULD WELCOME THIS) TAKE A PUBLIC SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT. AS AN EXAMPLE, HE COULD ADDRESS AS THE GUEST OF HONOR A JAMAICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION LUNCHEON ON U.S. POLICY TOWARD AFRICA OR THE CARIBBEAN, OR ON HUMAN RIGHTS.

3. ON THE SOCIAL SIDE, AMBASSADOR YOUNG IS VIRTUALLY A JAMAICAN FOLK HERO. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT PM MANLEY OR FONMIN PATTERSON WILL WISH TO ROLL OUT THE RED CARPET WITH AN APPROPRIATE LARGE DINNER OR RECEPTION. ASSUMING AMBASSADOR YOUNG IS HERE FOR TWO NIGHTS AMBASSADOR IRVING (WHO ARRIVES HERE ON JULY 13) ALSO WOULD WISH TO HOST A FUNCTION.

4. PUTTING ALL OF THE FOREGOING TOGETHER, SOME OF THE PURPOSES OF THE TRIP WOULD BE ACCOMPLISHED IF THE AMBASSADOR VISITED JAMAICA DURING PM MANLEY'S ABSENCE IN MID-AUGUST ANDSHELD TALKS WITH FONMIN PATTERSON

AND DEPUTY PM COORE. BUT THE ATMOSPHERICS SO VITAL IN A TRIP OF THIS SORT WOULD BE SHARPLY REDUCED.

MOREOVER, TO THE EXTENT THAT THE AMBASSADOR'S TRIP IS INTENDED TTO EXTRACT COMMITMENTS OR SUPPORT ON ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE TO THE U.S., MICHAEL MANLEY IS THE DECISION-MAKER HERE IN THOSE AREAS. WE THEREFORE STRONGLY HOPE THAT IT IS POSSIBLE TO REVERSE AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S ITINERARY IN SOME FASHION AND PUT HIM INTO KINGSTON AT THE BEGINNING OF THE TRIP RATHER THAN THE END SO THAT HE MAY TIE IN WITH THE PM'S OWN SCHEDULE. THE LATTER IS IN FACT RATHER UNFLEXIBLE. MANLEY IS EXHAUSTED BOTH PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY AND IS DETER-
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MINED TO TAKE LEAVE. THE ONLY SUITABLE TIME-FRAME FOR THAT LEAVE (VIS-A-VIS OTHER BASIC AND TOTALLY FIXED COMMITMENTS) IS THAT DESCRIBED TO US BY HIS OFFICE, I.E. ROUGHLY THE SECOND AND THIRD WEEKS OF AUGUST, AND PERHAPS PART OF THE FOURTH WEEK.
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